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NEW REMEDY FOR TETANUS AND OTHER CONVULSIVE DISORDERS.

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THE narcotic and intoxicating effects of hemp are popularly known in various parts of Asia, Africa and America, where it is extensively employed in a multitude of affections; but in Western Europe the use of hemp is unknown either as a stimulant or as a remedy, probably because the European hemp does not contain any of the resinous matter upon which its therapeutical properties depend. In warm climates, and during certain seasons, a resinous juice exudes and concretes on the leaves, slender stems, and flowers of the hemp. This resin has a fragrant, narcotic odor; bitter, acrid taste; and, when pure, is of a blackish-grey color. It is very soluble in alcohol, or fixed oils, and is insoluble in acids.

Having determined, by experiments on carnivorous animals, that the remedy might be administered with safety to the human subject, Dr. O'Shaughnessy proceeded to try its effects in several convulsive diseases. The resinous extract which he employed, was obtained by boiling the tops of the dried hemp plant in spirit (sp. gr. 835), until the resin was dissolved, and then evaporating the tincture to dryness. The tincture of hemp was prepared by dissolving three grains of this extract in one drachm of proof spirit. The doses vary according to the disease for the cure of which the remedy may be employed. In cholera, Dr. O'Shaughnessy gives ten drops of the tincture every half hour, until the vomiting and purging are allayed. In cases of tetanus, a drachm of the tincture every half hour, until the paroxysms cease, or catalepsy is induced. In hydrophobia, 10 or 20 grains of the extract to be chewed by the patient, and repeated according to their effect.

The diseases for which the hemp resin has been administered by Dr. O'Shaughnessy, are rheumatism, cholera, hydrophobia and tetanus. In the two former complaints the trials hitherto made do not lead to any determinate conclusion. In one undoubted case of hydrophobia the effects of the resin are thus graphically described by Dr. O'Shaughnessy:—

"By his own desire water was brought in a metallic vessel, which he grasped and brought near his lips: never can I forget the indescribable horrors of the paroxysm which ensued. It abated in about three minutes, and morbid thirst still goading the unhappy man, he besought his servant to apply a moistened cloth to his lips. Intelligent and brave,

he determinately awaited the contact of the cloth, and for a few seconds, though in appalling agony, permitted some drops to trickle on his tongue; but then ensued a second struggle, which, with a due share of the callousness of my profession, I could not stand by to contemplate. Two grains of hemp resin in a soft pillular mass were ordered every hour; after the third dose he stated that he felt commencing intoxication; he now chatted cheerfully on his case, and displayed great intelligence and experience in the treatment of the very disease with which he was visited. He talked calmly of drinking, but said it was in vain to try, but he could suck an orange; this was brought to him, and he succeeded in swallowing the juice without any difficulty. The hemp was continued till the sixth dose, when he fell asleep, and had some hours' rest. Early the ensuing morning, however, Mr. Siddons, my assistant, was called up to him, and found him in a state of tumultuous agony and excitement. The hemp was again repeated, and again by the third dose the cheering alleviation of the previous day was witnessed. He ate a piece of sugar-cane, and again swallowed the juice; he partook freely of some moistened rice, and permitted a purgative enema to be administered. His pulse was nearly natural, the skin natural in every respect. His countenance was happy.

"Four days thus passed away, the doses of hemp being continued. When he fell asleep, on waking the paroxysms returned, but were again almost immediately assuaged as at first. Meanwhile purgative enemata were employed, and he partook freely of solid food, and once drank water without the least suffering. But about 3, P. M. of the fifth day, he sunk into profound stupor, the breathing slightly stertorous; in this state he continued, and without further struggle, death terminated his sufferings at 4, A. M., on the 27th of November."

In several cases of traumatic tetanus the power of the remedy was triumphantly exhibited. In the first case, symptoms of tetanus supervened on the employment of a moxa, for the cure of dysentery. Two days after their appearance the case was considered hopeless, and the extract of hemp was administered, in the dose of two or three grains, every third, and then every second hour. The spasms were speedily mitigated, and ceased altogether in eleven days. The dysentery proved fatal, however, seventeen days afterwards. The other cases are thus alluded to by Dr. O'Shaughnessy:—

"The second case was that of Chunoo Syce, in whom tetanus supervened on the 11th December, after an injury from the kick of a horse. After an ineffectual trial of turpentine and castor oil in large doses, two-grain doses of hemp resin were given on the 26th of December. He consumed in all 134 grains of the resin, and left the hospital cured, on the 28th of December.

"Third Case.—Huroo, a female, *ætat.* 25, admitted into the Native Hospital December 16th, had tetanus for the three previous days, the sequel of a cut on the left elbow, received a fortnight before. Symptoms violent on admission. Turpentine and castor oil given repeatedly without effect; on the 16th and 17th, three grains of hemp resin were given at bed-time. On the morning of the 18th she was found in a

state of complete catalepsy, and remained so until evening, when she became sensible, and a tetanic paroxysm recurred. Hemp resumed, and continued in two-grain doses every fourth hour. From this time till the third hour tetanic symptoms returned. She subsequently took a grain twice daily till the 8th February, when she left the hospital apparently quite well.

"Mr. O'Brien has since used the hemp resin in five cases, of which four were admitted in a perfectly hopeless state. He employed the remedy in *ten-grain doses* dissolved in spirit. The effect he describes as almost immediate relaxation of the muscles, and interruption of the convulsive tendency. Of Mr. O'Brien's 7 cases, 4 have recovered.

"In the Police Hospital of Calcutta, the late Dr. Bain has used the remedy in three cases of traumatic tetanus; of these, one has died and two recovered.

"A very remarkable case has recently occurred in the practice of my cousin, Mr. Richard O'Shaughnessy. The patient was a Jew, *æt.* 30, attacked with tetanus during the progress of a sloughing sore of the scrotum, the sequel of a neglected hydrocele. Three-grain doses were used every second hour, with the effect of inducing intoxication and suspending the symptoms. The patient has recovered perfectly, and now enjoys excellent health."

"The preceding facts (says Dr. O'Shaughnessy) seem unequivocally to show, that when given boldly, and in large doses, the resin of hemp is capable of arresting effectually the progress of this formidable disease, and, in a large proportion of cases, of effecting a perfect cure." We trust that some of our hospital physicians will, without delay, procure the remedy which Dr. O'Shaughnessy has thus favorably introduced, and determine how far it may sustain its reputation as a "powerful anti-convulsive" in this country.—*British and Foreign Med. Review.*

DR. BURNE ON THE TREATMENT OF HABITUAL CONSTIPATION.

THE author very properly insists upon the necessity of ascertaining the peculiar disposition of any individual before determining on the propriety of any interference with his bowels. It is known to everybody that cases are occasionally met with where the bowels are only evacuated every second, third, or fourth day, or even much more seldom, the health of these individuals, however, remaining sound; and on the other hand there are abundant instances in which a relaxed state of the alimentary canal appears to be the essential condition of health. We extract the following as a very useful practical caution on the subject of idiosyncrasies in general:—

"To these peculiarities, when stated, we are too little disposed to listen; we are apt to regard them as caprices and fancies rather than true idiosyncrasies, until some untoward circumstances admonish us that they cannot be slighted or disregarded without hazard to the well-being of our patients and to the reputation of ourselves."

Under the head of *regimen*, as the first circumstance in the manage-

ment of constipated bowels, early rising is recommended, and with a wise definition of what this means.

"By early rising, I would understand rather the avoiding a second sleep in the morning, than the getting up at any specified hour." "Early rising must be construed relatively." "A person awakes refreshed, light, cheerful; but if, instead of at once getting up, he dozes off to sleep again, he afterwards rises with unwillingness, and finds his head heavy, his spirits dull, and his bowels indisposed to act." "Next to early rising and not less important, is the *habit of frequenting the closet regularly at a certain period of the day, and of strictly obeying the calls of nature.*"

The subject of diet is one of great importance in relation to constipation. The author does not think that attention proportioned to its importance has been given to the subject of aperient medicines in habitual constipation. He well remarks that the proper object is attained "not by purging the bowels, but by securing their full and free action at regular periods by medicines which not only act, but which dispose the bowels to act of themselves." This most invaluable rule cannot be too strongly impressed upon the mind of every one who contemplates the employment of aperient medicines of any kind.

"I have generally found it better," he adds, "at the commencement, to administer aperients in sufficient doses every other day, taking the chance of the bowels relieving themselves on the alternate day, until they have been brought into a more tractable state, and the influence of medicines upon the individual ascertained; after which the aperient can be so regulated in dose as to be administered daily with advantage. Perseverance on the part of the patient is absolutely necessary." "In proportion as the state of the bowels improves and becomes more tractable, so let the dose of the aperient be diminished, till at length little and eventually none shall be required. I have known persons obliged to commence with an ounce of infusion of senna, who have been gradually able to reduce it to a teaspoonful. So with castor oil, dinner pills and the like."

Those who suffer from piles are properly recommended so to take aperient medicines as "to have the bowels relieved in the evening, because they soon afterwards go to bed, and their sufferings, which have been aggravated by the action of the bowels, are relieved by the horizontal position: whereas, if the bowels act in the morning, the irritation arising therefrom is kept up during the day by exercise and the erect position." On this account it is recommended that sulphur, the best aperient in such cases, combined with a little magnesia, should be taken about noon. In the chapter "on the Action and Value of Aperient Medicines, administered singly or in combination," there is not much that is new, although there is that which it is useful frequently to repeat. *Jalap* is an aperient thought well of by Dr. Burne. Combined with rhubarb in the form of pills, or mixed with the confection of senna, he has found it very efficacious.

"As an occasional purgative, when the bowels are foul, as in persons on the eve of having an attack of the gout, the following *jalap draught*,

taken fasting in the morning, clears the alimentary canal most beneficially and without distress: R. Pulv. jalapæ, 3 ss.; vini colchici, tinct. hyoscyami, tinct. lavand. C. singulor., 3 ss. Aquæ distillatæ, 3i."

Aloes is said to be "very certain in its operation, but objectionable as a general remedy in habitual constipation, because it leaves the bowels disposed to be confined, so that no ground is gained beyond the immediate relief; and because when taken continually it rather loses its effect, and requires the dose to be augmented."

The following form of dinner pill is recommended by Dr. Burne:—
R. Aloes, 3j.; pulv. rhæi, ʒij.; pulv. ipecac., gr. v.; mellis, gr. xij.; spirit. tenuioris, q. s. M. et in pil. xx., vel xxx., vel xl., divide, ex quibus unam, duas, vel tres paulo ante prandium quotidie sumat." The compound decoction of aloes is less irritating in its operation than the aloes given in substance. The author is partial to a compound of this medicine with Epsom salts, which he speaks of as one of the most useful in habitual constipation. Assuredly it is one of the most nasty. However, as there is a variety of tastes among mankind, those who are so disposed may try this: "R. Magnesiæ carbonatis, 3jss.; magnesii sulphatis, 3vj.; decocti aloes, C. 3ij.; aq. distillatæ, 3vj. M. coclearia ij. vel iij. majora semel bisve quotidie."

Calomel is objected to altogether by Dr. Burne as an aperient, in the treatment of habitual constipation; not that he excludes it from use in certain cases of complication with torpid liver, &c.

"Castor oil," he says, "is on the whole one of the most innocuous and certain aperients." "It acts quickly, does not produce a subsequent costiveness, and the longer it is given the less the dose required; a great desideratum."

Senna is a purgative approved of by Dr. Burne, especially on account of its repeated doses admitting of diminution without a lessening of its aperient operation.

Dr. Burne thinks that the *bougie* may be had recourse to more frequently than is customary in the treatment of habitual constipation; that as action of the bowels in infants is frequently much promoted by the introduction of a small candle, a piece of soap, &c., the *bougie* is equally useful to adults. The author objects, and we think with justice, to the employment of clysters as an habitual remedy.

"In the first place they do not continue to relieve the bowels fully and freely for any length of time; in the next place they do not dispose the bowels to resume their natural action, but on the contrary, render them more confined; in the third place they wash off the mucus from the intestine, which is followed by a degree of irritation and an unpleasant sense of heat, very similar to that which occurs after washing the hands in water simply; in the fourth place the feces become more scybalous and hard under their use; and lastly, the individual does not feel the comfort and conviction of having had his bowels fully relieved, on which account he is often induced to resort to a second lavement on the same day. Lavements fail in completely obviating or curing habitual constipation."

As an occasional resource, however, our author does not reject them.

He recommends the injection of the blandest fluids, such as *barley water*, *thin gruel*, *linseed tea*, or *milk and water*, but simply warm water he regards as acting injuriously upon the mucous membrane of the rectum, and he prefers the use of water of a temperature of 60 degrees F.

In the treatment of obstructed bowels from feces or foreign substances accumulated in the cæcum or colon, he wisely cautions against the too frequent employment of purgatives.

"If the cæcum or colon is the seat of the obstruction, a tumor may generally be distinguished in the right ilio-inguinal region, or in the region of that part of the colon where the obstruction is seated, which is most generally the sigmoid flexure. The general plan of treatment should be to abstract blood, more or less, from a vein, if the symptoms call for it, and also locally; secondly, to give one or two strong doses of purgative medicine, as colocynth and calomel followed by senna and sulphate of soda; but if these fail, they should be discontinued, and the effervescing saline aperients resorted to and persevered in; opium or the salts of morphia being at the same time administered to remove spasm and assuage pain. The first efforts not having been successful, time should be allowed; and fomentation and baths and clysters be employed as far as the patient's strength will admit. Treated on this plan, patients will survive and do well after many days (*ten I have known*) of actual obstruction with vomiting and hiccup: but if violent measures are persisted in, they will too often sink under the treatment rather than the disease."

When the obstruction is in the sigmoid flexure of the colon, the injection of fluids through a long gum elastic tube, as recommended by O'Beirne, is the most effectual mode of overcoming it. When in the rectum, mechanical means should be employed, "and the sign which in cases of obstruction should excite suspicion that the cause is seated in the rectum and lead to an examination of that gut, is tenesmus." This fact, although familiar to all practitioners of experience, is often overlooked by young practitioners.—*Ibid.*

VACCINATION IN SIAM.

[THE following letter from Dr. Bradley, of the Missionary service, who is located at Bangkok, the capital of Siam, will be read with much interest. Vaccine virus has been sent several times from this office, secured in a manner which would in other circumstances preserve it unimpaired; but it proved wholly inefficient, and Dr. Bradley finally came to the conclusion, it will be recollected, that vaccination could not succeed in that country, owing to some cause not understood by him. Believing, however, that by perseverance, success would crown the philanthropic endeavors of Dr. Bradley, another package was forwarded, and the history of it is circumstantially detailed in this communication.—Ed.]

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I desire hereby to return you my ardent thanks for the deep interest which you have long taken in the introduction of the vac-

cina into Siam. More especially would I thank you for the package of vaccine virus which you sent me by the ship *Arno*, Capt. Nott, by the hand of Mr. H. M. Hill. It was brought from Singapore by the Rev. Asa Hemenway, and put into my hands early in January last. So often had I made laborious and fruitless experiments with vaccine virus in this city, that when I received this package, with your very earnest entreaty that "I would keep trying with every particle of it," I felt exceedingly burdened with what seemed almost a hopeless task. The virus had been more than six months on the passage, and I had before repeatedly failed with that which had come from Canton and Pinang in from two to four months, being protected from decomposition in almost every possible way. This people had witnessed so many of my fruitless experiments in the work, that I could scarcely cherish a hope that they could by any means be persuaded to allow me to experiment upon their children again. And so generally had the children been inoculated for the smallpox during the preceding year, that there seemed to be but very few remaining on whom I could experiment, even had prejudice not hedged up the way. With such onerous discouragements pressing upon me, I spread the case before the Lord, and became satisfied that it was my duty to attend to your request, leaving the responsibility of results entirely with Him. I then went to the Phraklang, the minister of foreign affairs, and stated to him the case, and requested him to lend me his aid in making another experiment. He at first thought that it was quite useless, inasmuch as the virus had been so long in coming, and as inoculation for the smallpox bid fair to answer all the purposes of vaccination. I then took occasion to enlarge upon the superior excellency of vaccination over inoculation, showing him that it never produced death or any serious disease, and that it is as good a protection against the smallpox as inoculation with smallpox itself. I think that I was enabled to make him see that if he could in any way aid in introducing the vaccina into this country, he might justly be considered a benefactor of his people. My plea prevailed. He promised that if I would come to his house on the following morning, he would allow me to vaccinate some of his dependents."

Accordingly, I went at the time appointed, being accompanied by the Rev. J. Caswell, and was surprised to find that his honor was willing to let me experiment on 10 of his children and grandchildren, and 65 Malay captives, all which I did at one sitting. I had never before been able to vaccinate more than 15 or 20 at once. I then returned to the mission premises, and vaccinated two of our children, a few native children, and one of the newly-arrived American missionaries, who had been unsuccessfully vaccinated at Boston just before her embarkation. A signal providence having given me so wide a field in which to experiment, I now began to entertain some ardent hopes that among all the persons I vaccinated there would be one or two in whom the virus would take. I cannot describe my joy, when, after 8 days, I discovered that it had indeed taken in 4 of the Malays (2 adult women and 2 young persons), and in the infant son of the Rev. Charles Robinson. These were all vaccinated from the scab, being pulverized and moistened with

rain water, and inserted between the lamina of the skin with the point of a lancet. I was allowed to re-vaccinate many of the Malays from the 4 of their number who had taken the vaccina. Those persons in the mission in whom I had failed, I re-vaccinated from the son of Mr. Robinson with perfect success. As the Malays were nearly all in some way diseased, chiefly of the cutaneous kind, the virus became spurious in many of them. They had sores resulting from the punctures, but of doubtful appearance. Perhaps I cannot do better than to give you a few extracts from notes which I made in the progress of this work. I will endeavor to be brief.

"Feb. 6th. Visited his honor the Phraklang in the morning, being accompanied by the Rev. A. Hemenway and wife, and Miss Pierce. The object of the visit was to show his honor a beautiful specimen of the vaccina on the arm of Miss P., and to induce him, if possible, to continue to lend his powerful influence in propagating it among the Siamese. He was pleased with the sight. I requested him to allow me to re-vaccinate his children. He immediately called them for this purpose. Just at that moment the man who had the charge of the Malays whom I had vaccinated, brought in a report that some of those who had taken the vaccina had the smallpox supervene—that one had died, and that others were very sick in consequence of vaccination. This, as was very natural, frightened the Phraklang so much that he would not allow me to re-vaccinate in his family. I assured him that there was some mistake in the report, and proposed to go myself at mid-day to investigate the case. Accordingly I went to the places where the Malays were living. I saw nearly all that I had vaccinated, and found that as yet not one of the cases which I thought were successful had taken the smallpox; but that many whom I vaccinated at first without any effect, had the smallpox. I returned and reported the same to the Phraklang. His hopes were revived by it, and he ordered his physician to collect a number of children and have them vaccinated at my house in the evening of the same day. The physician brought 5 children, and had them vaccinated. I had notified Choufahyai, the elder brother of the king, of my success in vaccinating, and he was induced to send me also 5 persons for experiment. Choufahnoi, the brother of Choufahyai, allowed me to vaccinate one of his children.

"Feb. 14. Walked out into the Phraklang's sugar-cane plantation to look after some Malays that I had vaccinated. What I saw greatly dampened my hopes of the success of vaccination in Siam. I found that 2 or 3 of those whom I trusted had taken the vaccina, were full of the smallpox. There was, however, one hope remaining. It was that their cases had been rendered spurious in consequence of their cutaneous diseases, which were many and bad, and that other cases would be found genuine. I cherished the hope that the matter I had obtained from Mr. R.'s little boy would produce the genuine vaccina.

Feb. 15. A little sucking child that I vaccinated 8 or 9 days before, appeared to have a genuine pustule. Vaccinated several from it, hoping still that I might succeed in propagating in Siam the illustrious antidote against the smallpox.

"Feb. 22d. Spent much of the day in seeking after and vaccinating children. Those that were vaccinated the week before had nearly all taken it beautifully. Prevailed upon the Phraklang to allow me to vaccinate 3 of his infant children. It is very difficult to obtain good subjects for vaccination. This people as yet have little or no confidence in the plan, and they are exceedingly fearful that it will produce something very bad in the end.

"Feb. 29th. The 3 children of the Phraklang mentioned above, all took the vaccina perfectly. The father expressed much gratitude for the success, and felt himself relieved from a great burden of anxiety about them. I requested him to aid me in extending the blessings of vaccination to his people, and in preserving the virus from week to week and month to month. He responded in the affirmative, yet not with as much heart as I had hoped he would. With great effort I found 6 or 8 persons that I could vaccinate. I am obliged, in every instance, to entreat much for the privilege. The people do not at all realize what a blessing is brought to their doors, and offered to them without money and without price, and without the least possible danger. I calculate that I shall be obliged to pursue these benevolent efforts against the strongest wind and tide, and the most stupid unbelief, yet a long time. The Phraklang, even, will need to have the smallpox come in close contact with his children that have been successfully vaccinated, and thus have them put to a thorough test, ere he will fully believe.

"March 7th. Engaged the greater part of the day in vaccinating. The king of Siam sent one of his physicians to me to make inquiries concerning the vaccina, and requesting me to vaccinate at the house of his brother Chounuam, on the 9th inst. I took unwearied pains to put the physician in possession of all the information I could on the subject. I also vaccinated a little boy that he brought with him, and returned his majesty word that I would be obedient to the call. Chauchum (a noble lord) sent a request that I would vaccinate in his family, with which I complied, and vaccinated 2 of his own children and 4 dependents. Thus the Lord is giving the work favor in the eyes of the great of Siam.

"March 9th. Went to the residence of Chounuam, according to the king's request, and vaccinated 2 of the Prince's children, and 5 or 6 of the children of his servants. He was much engaged in learning how to perform the operation himself. He took virus with which to vaccinate in the royal palace in the evening or on the next day morning.

"March 14th. The vaccination still prospers. The most that were vaccinated a week ago, have now beautiful pustules.

"March 24th. Vaccinated 4 children of the Indo-Portuguese, which were all that I could obtain after much effort. The Lord takes care to provide me a few persons every week, so that I am enabled to keep the vaccina a-going. I trust that I shall be able, with His favor, to continue the process until this people shall become generally convinced that I do not attempt to deceive them, but that I bring them a good, that is worthy of their most eager reception. The king is at present so much engaged in the funeral ceremonies of his son, who died some 9 or 10

months since, that I think he will not attend very thoroughly to the experiments which he has directed his physicians to make with the vaccine virus. But I hope and trust that he will eventually be confirmed in the belief that this work of benevolence is richly worthy of his care and patronage.

"I have been much gratified to-day by hearing the testimony of Mōwsuk, the Phraklang's physician, concerning the vaccina. He says that he has vaccinated about 40 persons successfully—that the most of those persons have since been living in the midst of those that have in the mean time had the smallpox, and that he has not seen one case of smallpox among those who had the vaccina. He assured me that he now had full confidence in vaccination. I trust that such testimony will do much to remove the strong prejudices against the kinpox that exist among this people. Many of these prejudices have been produced by my many failures in previous years. It would seem that the friends of those thus vaccinated had thought that the simple puncture would protect them. When they were exposed to the smallpox, of course they took it. Some had it severely, and some died of it. And now, whenever I plead for the vaccina, there are always some to refer back to those failures, and report dreadful stories. Again, many will believe that the vaccina is but a mild form of smallpox, and it is almost impossible to beat it out of them that it will in the hot season turn into malignant smallpox. This is the hot season, and hence many will not allow me to vaccinate their children."

The virus that I am now using has passed through 12 successive operations, and probably 200 persons have been successfully vaccinated from the beginning. It still produces the perfect vaccine pustule. I apprehend that when the wet season shall commence, in May or June, it will cease to act. There was some thunder and rain last week, when I had an unusual proportion of failures. I know not why it is that vaccina cannot be propagated at Singapore, Pinang and Burmah. It may be owing to some peculiar electrical influence at those places. From the experiment that I am now making, I am inclined to believe that it may be propagated here always during the dry season, and perhaps through the wet season also. Should I fail in preserving it until the beginning of another dry and cool season, which will be about the first of December, I shall need to receive another package of virus fresh from Boston at that time, which I fervently hope you will forward me. I hope by that time the king will have been confirmed in his hopes concerning it, and will be ready to issue a decree that all the children unprotected against the smallpox in his kingdom, shall be vaccinated. I hope that you will make it a standing rule to send me fresh virus in just the way you did by Mr. Hill, every year, taking care that it shall come to hand in November or December, at which time the smallpox begins its annual work. Why it follows the seasons thus uniformly, is a question which I have thought upon. May it not be owing to a less decomposing power in the atmosphere upon the smallpox virus? It is a fact that it becomes more and more contagious and malignant until the wet season commences—and then it quickly disappears until another dry

season. Now if such be true with regard to the smallpox virus, it probably will be found that the vaccine virus will be more or less under the same influence—and will be found to succeed better in the dry seasons than in the wet.

With regard to the package of virus you sent me by Mr. Hill, it may be of use to state that it was kept in a trunk that was frequently opened during the passage across the ocean, which may be better than close confinement in the hold or somewhere else.

What think you of the plan of producing vaccina by inoculating a cow with the smallpox virus? I have quite recently read a notice in an English paper very strongly corroborating accounts of this plan, which I saw broached long since. R. Hunter, Esq., of this city, has requested me to make the experiment on one of his cows, and I have engaged to do it soon. If the genuine vaccine virus can be procured in this way, it will be a vast improvement over the present plan of transmitting the virus from country to country.

Will you allow me to request you to send me the Boston Medical Journal regularly. I am pleased with it. The few numbers I have had have been of much use to me. Pardon me for taxing your time and patience so long.

Very respectfully yours,

Bangkok, April 9th, 1840.

DAN. B. BRADLEY.

OPINIONS OF THE LATE DR. TICKNOR ON HOMŒOPATHY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—In the obituary notice of my late brother-in-law, Dr. Ticknor, published in the last No. of your Journal (Sept. 30th), you remark that "Dr. Ticknor became a thorough convert to Hahnemannism from an honest conviction that it was a rational system," &c. Now, it is due to the memory of Dr. T. to state that he always made a distinction between *Hahnemannism* and *Homœopathy*, and while he believed in the latter, he disclaimed all confidence in the *peculiar* doctrines of the former. The infinitesimal doses, for example, he utterly discarded; and he says in his late pamphlet,* that "they bear the same relation to the principles and value of the system, that the working of miracles, by pretended relics, bears to the essential principles and value of the Christian religion. He also unhesitatingly set aside all the evidence in favor of the efficacy of such doses: for on the 28th page of the same pamphlet, speaking of the charge, that the symptoms described in Jahr's Repertory, were produced by the infinitesimal doses, as stated by Herring in his preface, he says, "This is too great a stretch for the credulity of any man. Experiments were doubtless made with the little doses; but whatever symptoms are recorded as resulting therefrom, may undoubtedly be attributed to the influence of the imagination, till farther proof to the contrary is obtained by additional experiments." Dr. T.

* "Letter to the Hon. —," &c., p. 21.

had, it is true, been led to believe that the fundamental principle of Homœopathy was of vastly greater importance, and of more extensive application, than is generally believed (that is, "that diseases are cured by that remedy which excites a similar morbid state, or disease, in a healthy person").—(*Pamphlet, p. 7.*) But though he held to this, he never maintained, with the homœopaths, that *the half is greater than the whole*, and that the millionth part of a grain of medicine had more power than the whole grain! There is no absurdity in believing, that the best way to make a sick man well, is first to make him still sicker. We see this illustrated every day, when we give emetics to relieve nausea or gastric derangement; but this is a very different thing from saying that a billionth part of a grain of any medicine has more efficacy than a pound, as Hahnemann taught, and his disciples believe. Dr. T. generally used the ordinary medicines of the shops on the homœopathic principle, and when he gave the real homœopathic medicines, he employed the saturated tinctures in appreciable doses. "The quantity," he remarks in the pamphlet above quoted, "has nothing to do with the principle. When I give medicine upon this plan, I do, as I ever have done upon the old, give it till the system feels it."—(P. 21.)

All the credit which Dr. T. gave Hahnemann, was that of having more fully developed the above principle, than any former writer had ever done. He viewed him, after all, as a highly visionary man—rejected the whole of his experiments with the infinitesimal doses (which constitute, it is believed, nine tenths, at least, of those whose results are given in his great work on the *materia medica*)—and he, moreover, always denominated Hahnemann's leading propositions, *dogmas*, and *assumptions*, put forth with much confidence, but sustained by little proof.

With my intimate knowledge of Dr. T.'s habits of thinking, and the constitution of his mind, I hesitate not to say that he never could have been a disciple of Hahnemann. To have become such, his mental organization must have been entirely changed; he must have lost his identity, or sunk into idiocy. I should not probably have troubled you with this statement, had it not been for a single circumstance. After Dr. Ticknor had given up all hope of recovery, but the day before his death, and while in the full possession of his reason, he spoke of this very subject, and seemed very anxious to place the matter in its true light before he left the world. "Dr. P.," he exclaimed, "says that I am a thorough-going homœopath, and have renounced allopathy. This is not true: bring me my pamphlet." The pamphlet was brought—and as he was unable to hold it, from weakness, his hands were supported, while he turned over the leaves, till at length he found what he wanted, and placing his finger on the passage, said to his brother, "read that." The passage is as follows:—"We know that we have cured many patients by allopathic treatment, although Hahnemann declares that every cure that has ever been made, has been by homœopathy. For one, I see no good reason to reject an old friend, because I have found a new one, and I know no good reason why I may not again cure the same disease by allopathy, that I already have, although I may believe

there is too much truth in homœopathy to reject the whole, because it is blended with absurdity and error. To believe in homœopathy, a man need not forget what he has learned, nor lay aside his common sense. So far, then, as I have found allopathy useful, I would no sooner abandon it than I would an old and well-tryed friend; and so far as I have found, or may hereafter find, homœopathy to be more useful, I shall adopt it as a new friend—I shall consider it an additional weapon with which to combat disease, till we have all the pre-requisites for a more perfect system. There are many things embraced in the new system which I regard as the absurdities and extravagancies of an enthusiast." Such may be regarded as Dr. Ticknor's dying testimony; and it is due to his character and his reputation that it should be known.

New York, Oct 7, 1840.

CHARLES A. LEE, M.D.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 14, 1840.

MECHANICAL SURGERY.

AN unusual degree of interest has been created of late, in this country, by the successful treatment of distorted limbs, which have in numerous instances been restored to usefulness by the division of tendons. The most mis-shapen congenital club-feet have thus been remoulded, and made quite symmetrical, and useful too, in the course of a few weeks; and contracted joints, the result of violence, burns, scalds, &c., by the same simple process, are now managed with an adroitness that astonishes the community. There is no calculating the progress yet to be made in this most surprising of arts—but, what will be said when it is stated that whatever was astonishing in regard to the restoration of club-feet by an operation, which, although simple in itself, must necessarily be attended with pain, may be achieved without incisions, without scalpels, and without cutting the fibre of a single muscle!

From an examination of the specimen cases shown us by Heber Chase, M.D., of Philadelphia, we are inclined to think that mechanical surgery, as it is called—meaning simply the re-shaping of these deformed limbs by the application of external apparatus alone—will soon receive its share of attention. It appears that for some time Dr. Chase has been quietly engaged in the treatment of various deformities of the body. The machinery which he has invented is represented to be exceedingly ingenious and successful in bringing almost all irregularities of the bones into perfect order, by a patient course of pressure. Several lithographic plates were left for inspection the other day, which show the changes brought about on some of the worst cases of club-foot. The restoration was accomplished in about the same time that is required after dividing the tendons. The advantages, therefore, to be gained by Dr. Chase's mode, are these—viz., the pain arising from inserting a cutting instrument under the skin is wholly avoided—and the restoration is perfected in about the same period that has been considered necessary after a surgical operation. A paper is in the hands of the editor of the American Journal of Medical

Sciences, upon this important subject, accompanied by cases and illustrations. We shall avail ourselves of the information it may contain, and circulate it, fully believing that it will be acceptable to the readers of the *Journal*. Some of the explanatory plates are beautifully drawn, and should be sent abroad in connection with the paper Dr. Chase has prepared.—We refer our readers to Dr. Chase's advertisement of a course of lectures, in to-day's *Journal*.

Lunatic Hospital, Worcester.—There are at present 240 patients in this institution—more than should be there with the present accommodations, since 224 rooms are not enough for the comfortable convenience of so many insane people. Applications are continually made for the admission of lunatics; but owing to the limited number of apartments, they cannot be received. This state of things appeals strongly to the sympathies and humanity of the Legislature of Massachusetts. An immediate attention should be given to it when the General Court convenes. Another wing must be erected, or those which are now already too full, must be extended. With the faithful manner in which this noble charity has been conducted since its organization, no one at all conversant with the principles upon which it was founded, can find fault. It is a pattern institution—commended alike by our own citizens and strangers. It matters not what it may cost to increase the facilities—they must be had. Appeals of the strongest character are made for entrance, which Dr. Woodward is compelled to reject solely because there is not an unoccupied place remaining. The necessity of the case, therefore, is the strongest of all arguments, and we hope no parsimonious system of public economy will be allowed to retard the progress of humanity in a section of New England that professes to sympathize with the unfortunate in all the relations of life.

Meeting of the Medical Council.—On Wednesday last, the board of counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society convened at the Athenæum. The ordinary business which had accumulated in the course of three months, was disposed of in the usual manner. The reports of committees, &c., occupied some little time. A communication was read from Dr. Nichols, a fellow, on the propagation of leeches, which deservedly attracted considerable attention. It being exclusively and appropriately the business of the Society to examine the matter in detail, we feel that we have no right to anticipate that body by an editorial notice, important as the subject is to the whole profession.

Diseases of Females.—A new work by Dr. Churchill, of Dublin, an author of acknowledged reputation, was received a few days since. It should be re-published here by some of our enterprising publishers; but it needs nothing in the way of notes and emendations to give it currency in the United States. As soon as it can be spared, the volume will be handed over to a gentleman whom we consider well qualified to give an analytical account of its contents.

Congenital Malformation.—Dr. Boyd exhibited, at a meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, a beautiful wax model, taken

from a boy, the subject of a peculiar kind of congenital malformation. He was 13 years of age. The malformation consisted of a deficiency of the anterior and lower part of the abdominal parietes, and also of the anterior portion of the bladder. On raising the mucous membrane of the bladder, which was exposed to view, the termination of the ureters could be observed with the urine dropping from them; which, as soon as it was secreted, immediately dribbled from the bladder, and excoriated the integuments in the neighborhood of a rudimentary penis and scrotum. There was no urethra, no corpus spongiosum, and only a portion of the corpora cavernosa penis. There was a mere attempt at the formation of a scrotum. The testicles were contained in a double congenital hernia in each groin. The boy was in excellent health.—*London Lancet*.

Small Doses of Sulphate of Copper in Whooping Cough.—I wish to call the attention of my medical brethren, through your medium, to the great value of small doses of sulphate of copper in whooping cough. I have used it in numerous cases, and with the happiest result. The form I generally order is the following: R. Sulphate of copper, $\frac{1}{2}$ gr.; syrup of poppies, 3ss.; aniseed water, 3iss. M. One or two teaspoonfuls (according to the age of the child) to be taken every four hours.—P. H. CHAVASSE, in *Lancet*.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Oct. 16, 22.—Males, 14—Females, 14.

Of consumption, 4—cholera infantum, 1—typhoid fever, 4—dropsy on the brain, 3—cramp in the stomach, 1—dysentery, 1—cancer in the bowels, 1—dropsy in the head, 1—dropsy, 1—hemorrhage of the nose, 1—infantile, 1—hooping cough, 3—lung fever, 1—intemperance, 1—disease of the liver, 1—scalds, 1—drowned, 1—fever, 1—scarlet fever, 1.

LECTURES ON HERNIA AND MECHANICAL SURGERY.

On Tuesday evening the 9th of November, at 7 o'clock, Dr. Chase will commence his Winter Course of Lectures on Hernia and analogous diseases, combined with Mechanical Surgery, as applied to the correction of distortions.

The relief of the various curvatures of the spine, deformities of the limbs, and club-foot, will be discussed.

The Lectures will be delivered in the lecture-room at his private residence, on Tuesday and Friday of each week, at 7 o'clock, P. M., and will continue three months.

The course will be purely clinical, as in every instance patients will be present affected with the disease or deformity under consideration, and the student will have an opportunity of becoming practically acquainted with the use of all the instruments employed in the treatment of these diseases.

Ticket five dollars.

Philadelphia, Sept., 1846.

O. 14—1m

HENRY CHASE, M.D., Ninth street, below Walnut.

MEDICAL LECTURES IN BOSTON.

THE Medical Faculty of Harvard University will begin their annual course of Lectures on the first Wednesday of November next, at the Massachusetts Medical College, Mason street, Boston. The introductory Lecture will be given at 12 o'clock, M., in the Anatomical Theatre, on that day, and the lectures will continue four months.

Anatomy and the Operations in Surgery, by	Prof. WARREN.
Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence, by	Prof. CHANNING.
Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine, by	Prof. BIGELOW.
Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery, by	Prof. HAYWARD.
Chemistry, by	Prof. WEBSTER.
Theory and Practice of Physic, by	Prof. WARR.

The students will have an opportunity of attending the medical and surgical practice at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and also of seeing the surgical operations performed there during the winter.

The Faculty have reason to believe that the provisions of the law legalizing the study of anatomy, will be carried more completely into operation than has heretofore been done, and that the facilities for practical anatomy will consequently be much increased.

WALTER CHANNING, Doct.

Boston, July 6, 1846.

Jy 15—N1

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers having been long engaged in private medical instruction, propose to receive pupils, and to devote to them such time and opportunities for study and practice as are necessary for a medical education. Their pupils will be admitted without fee to the lectures on midwifery in the Massachusetts Medical College, to the practice of the Massachusetts Hospital, and have opportunities for the study of practical anatomy under the immediate superintendence of Dr. Otis. Terms may be learned by calling on Dr. Otis, No. 8 Chambers street. Fuel, lights and rooms without charge.

WALTER CHANNING,
GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.

Boston, August 19, 1846.

COLUMBIAN COLLEGE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Lectures in the Medical Department of this Institution will commence on the first Monday in November, annually, and continue until the 1st of March.

During this period, full courses will be delivered on the various branches of medicine by

THOMAS SEWALL, M.D., Professor of Pathology, and the Practice of Medicine.
 FREDERICK HALL, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.
 HARVEY LINSLEY, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.
 THOMAS MILLER, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.
 JOHN H. THOMAS, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics.
 J. FREDERICK MAY, M.D., Professor of Surgery; late Professor of Surgery in the University of Maryland.

SAMUEL C. SMOOT, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

The Medical College is situated at the corner of 10th and E streets, equi-distant from the Capitol and the President's house.

In the arrangement of this building, and the organization of the school, particular reference has been had to the study of *Practical Anatomy*, a branch which the student will enjoy peculiar facilities for cultivating.

The Professor of Surgery will show all the operations upon the recent subject, and afford the student an opportunity of repeating the more important ones with his own hand.

The Professor of Chemistry has a complete chemical and philosophical apparatus.

The Professor of Obstetrics will illustrate his lectures by obstetrical apparatus, and an ample collection of preparations and drawings.

As there are many young men of talent and worth in different parts of our country who, from restricted circumstances, are unable to avail themselves of the benefit of public lectures, the Professors have resolved to admit, gratuitously, two such students from each of the States, and one from each of the Territories. In order, however, to guard against individuals whose education and character do not qualify them to become useful members of the profession, the selection is placed in the hands of the Senators and Delegates of Congress, each of whom has the right to select one student from his respective State or Territory, and whose certificate of selection will be a passport to all the lectures, by paying only, on entering the school, the usual matriculating fee of five dollars.

The entire expense for a Course of Lectures with the Professors, is \$75. Dissecting Ticket, \$10; optional with the student.

The regulations for graduation are, that the candidates shall have attended the lectures of each professor two full courses, or one full course in this respect, and one in some other responsible institution. He shall have entered his name with the Dean of the Faculty as a candidate for graduation, and delivered to him an inaugural dissertation on some medical subject, thirty days before the close of the session, and pass a satisfactory examination.

All persons who have attended two full courses of lectures in this school, are entitled to attend succeeding courses free of expense.

The degrees are conferred by the authority of the Columbian College, incorporated by an act of Congress of the United States.

Good board can be procured at from three to four dollars per week.

J. N. THOMAS, M.D.
Dean of the Faculty.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The course of Lectures will commence on Monday, the 3d day of November, and be continued under the following arrangement:—

Practice and Theory of Medicine,

Chemistry,

Surgery,

Anatomy,

Institute of Medicine,

Materia Medica and Pharmacy,

Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.

NATHANIEL CHAPMAN, M.D.

ROBERT HARR, M.D.

WILLIAM E. BRIDGES, M.D.

WILLIAM E. BRIDGES, M.D.

SAMUEL JACKSON, M.D.

GEORGE R. WOOD, M.D.

HUGH L. HOBBS, M.D.

Clinical Lectures on Medicine and Surgery are delivered regularly at the Philadelphia Hospital (Blockley), and at the Pennsylvania Hospital, from the beginning to the end of the session.

283 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, July 15, 1846.

W. E. MORRIS,

Dean of the Medical Faculty.

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA.

Regular Lectures will commence on the first Monday of November.

The following are the professors, in the order of their appointment:—

1. JACOB GREEN, M.D., Chemistry.

2. GRANVILLE E. PATTISON, M.D., Anatomy.

3. JOHN REVERE, M.D., Practice of Medicine.

4. ROBERT DUNGLISON, M.D., Institute of Medicine and Materia Medica.

5. ROBERT M. HUSTON, M.D., Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

6. JOSEPH PARCOST, M.D., Surgery.

On and after the 1st of October the dissecting rooms will be kept open, and the Professor of Anatomy will give his personal attendance thereto. Lectures will likewise be delivered regularly during the month on various branches, and opportunities for clinical instruction will be afforded at the Philadelphia Hospital under the Professors of Institute of Medicine and Surgery; and at the University of the College under the Professors of Physics and Surgery.

Philadelphia, July 15, 1846.

A. S. CANI

Dean of the Faculty.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR., at 194 Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, post paid. It is also published in Monthly Parts, with a printed cover. There are two volumes each year. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor. Price \$3.00 a year in advance, \$3.50 after three months, or \$4.00 if not paid within the year. Two copies to the same address, for \$4.00 a year, in advance. Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance or satisfactory reference. Postage the same as for a newspaper.

At the Medical